

SUMMARY OF PHONE-IN SESSION COMMENTS

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| <i>Date:</i> | June 15, 2005 6:00 to 8:30 pm | <i>Location:</i> | Toll free number: (866) 628-8210 Access code: 3676923 |
| <i>Meeting Purpose and Goals:</i> | To hear and record public comment on the Public Review Draft of the California Water Plan Update 2005 | | |
| <i>All meeting materials, including the PowerPoint presentation, are available at the California Water Plan website at: http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/materials/index.cfm</i> | | | |

Presenters:

Lisa Beutler, Facilitator, Center for Collaborative Policy, CA State University, Sacramento

Kamyar Guivetchi, Manager, Statewide Water Planning, CA Department of Water Resources (DWR)

Carolyn Yale, Advisory Committee member, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Introduction: Format and Purpose

Lisa Beutler, meeting facilitator, introduced the presenters and DWR staff and welcomed everyone to the CA Water Plan Update 2005 Evening Public Phone-In Session. The purpose of the meeting was for the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) to receive public input and to share ideas for the Public Review Draft of the CA Water Plan. This workshop was one of two evening meetings held to provide additional opportunities for public comment for people who were unable attend the afternoon sessions in June.

The session consisted of 3 presentations by Kamyar Guivetchi (DWR), each followed by opportunities for audience to ask questions. Advisory Committee member Carolyn Yale from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency spoke on behalf of the CA Water Plan Update 2005 Advisory Committee. There were breaks after each presentation to allow the audience to make comments and ask questions.

Part 1 – Agenda Items A and B

A) Background & Overview / B) Comments from the Advisory Committee

This *Water Plan Update* is different than previous updates. It was prepared using a new process. There are many new features in the Water Plan. It will be continually updated as new information becomes available, and it presents a strategic plan and framework for action developed with substantial stakeholder input. Kamyar Guivetchi spoke on the content and strategic planning process used in the Water Plan. Advisory Committee member Carolyn Yale explained the *Advisory Committee View*, a 4-page handout prepared by the Advisory Committee that summarizes the areas of agreement and points of disagreement among the 65-member Advisory Committee over the last four and a half years, and uncertainties remaining in the Water Plan.

Question and Answer Session:

No questions.

Part 2 – Agenda Items C and D

C) California Water Today & Water Balance / D) Regional Reports

It is important for a strategic plan to have a clear description of current conditions and situations. Chapter 3 of Volume 1: Strategic Plan is called “California Water Today.” As the largest chapter in Volume 1 (about 120 pages), it is intended to provide education and reference information. It gives general findings from both statewide and regional perspectives as well as the perspectives of different water use sectors (agriculture, urban, and environment). Volume 3 of the Water Plan has more detailed information on each of the 10 hydrologic regions (plus additional reports for Statewide, Mountain Counties, and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta), covering conditions, challenges, accomplishments, and future opportunities of the Region presented, as well as quantified water balances for supply and use. Kamyar Guivetchi presented the California Water today and statewide water balances.

Question and Answer Session:

No questions.

Part 3 – Agenda Items E and F

E) Preparing for the Future (Scenarios) / F) Diversifying Responses (Strategies)

This *Water Plan Update 2005* recognizes that many things may alter water use between now and 2030. For that reason, the *Update* contains a description of several possible future scenarios. Uncertainty about future course or events creates a need for multiple options to address opportunities and challenges. Further, the Plan recognizes that one size does not fit all. Each Region will have specific requirements or needs that may not apply across the entire state. Implementing multiple options (diverse management strategies) allows managers to adapt to a variety of circumstances. Volume 2: Resource Management Strategies has narrative descriptions of 25 different strategies available to water managers to help them reduce water demand, improve operational efficiency and transfers, increase water supply, improve water quality, and practice resource stewardship.

Question and Answer Session:

No questions.

Part 4 – Additional Public Comments

- There was comment on the interactive workshop process observed at a previous meeting. Personally, this person enjoyed the interactive format, but observed that some people had been taken aback because it was not in a traditional hearing format. Some people felt that the workshop format was less professional than the traditional public hearing.

- For those people with less background knowledge, the interactive workshop was excellent. It may be less helpful to those who have a more professional interest with professional/academic-level comments. It was wondered if such people might later complain they did not attend a public hearing, since the process was so different. Suggestion was made to make a space for people who have a prepared statement earlier in the meetings, so they are not be made to feel they have to sit through an orientation on information they already know.
 - There were voices in the room that would never had been heard without the interactive process – *not* suggesting that interactive workshop format was inappropriate. Many more people in the interactive workshops had the opportunity to give input.
- Appreciation was expressed for having a member of the Advisory Committee present.
- Appreciation was expressed that the Water Plan is recognizing various regions in the state and looking toward constructing a method of making regional plans fit together. People in the North State in particular have a tendency to be cynical, so sparse attendance in the workshops. This may have less to do with the Water Plan process than past experiences with other state agencies.
- Another person commented that this phone-in session was very helpful and interesting. As a person from the general public interested in water but not familiar with the Water Plan update, this session provided a good orientation and has sparked interest in reviewing the document.
- Another person expressed appreciation for the collaborative process and transparent public process.
- There was disappointment expressed that there was not a larger turnout for the phone-in session.
- Another person commended the telephone meeting format. It worked very well for the listeners and was a wonderful option for people who cannot physically attend meetings, such as people with disabilities or are too far away to drive. This is good thinking outside the box.

Part 6 – Closing

Kamyar and Lisa thanked the audience for participating in the public comment workshop and for their comments. He reminded everyone that the public review period will last through July 22, to allow for 60 days from the release of the printed Public Review Draft document.

Attendance:

Public:

Julie Carpenter, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 Agnes Fujii, Public
 Fran Spivy Webber, Mono Lake Committee

Eunice Sumi, Public
Margaret Taylor
Carolyn Yale, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Staff:

Lisa Beutler, CCP
Barbara Cross, DWR
Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
David Sumi, CCP